



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT
STAFF COUNSEL III (SPECIALIST)
DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTIONAL
SPOT: SACRAMENTO COUNTY



CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT - AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER - EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ALL REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION, AGE, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.
OA82-5795 6FS07

IT IS AN OBJECTIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ACHIEVE A DRUG-FREE STATE WORKPLACE. ANY APPLICANT FOR STATE EMPLOYMENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE, BECAUSE THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LAW OF THE STATE, THE RULES GOVERNING CIVIL SERVICE, AND THE SPECIAL TRUST PLACED IN PUBLIC SERVANTS.

DEPARTMENTAL FOR	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
WHO SHOULD APPLY	Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications. Applicants must have a permanent civil service appointment with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as of May 25, 2006 , the final filing date.
HOW TO APPLY	Examination Application STD. 678 must be filed with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by mail to P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, California 94244-2460, attention Examination Unit, or in person at 1300 U Street, Sacramento, California.
FINAL FILING DATE	Applications must be postmarked no later than May 25, 2006 . Applications postmarked after the final filing date will not be accepted for any reason.
EXAMINATION DATES	Qualifications Appraisal Interview: It is anticipated that interviews will be held during June/July, 2006 .
SALARY RANGE	\$6902 - \$8517
SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS	If you have a disability and need special testing arrangements, mark the appropriate box in Part 2 of the application. You will be contacted to make specific arrangements.
ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION	A departmental promotional eligible list will be established for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This list will be abolished 24 months after it is established unless the needs of the service and conditions of the list warrant a change in this period.
REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION	<p>All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements for this examination by May 25, 2006, the final filing date.</p> <p>NOTE: Accepted applicants are required to bring either a photo identification card or two forms of signed identification to each phase of the examination.</p> <p>All applications/resumes must include "from" and "to" employment dates (month/day/year), time base, and applicable civil service class titles. Applications/resumes received without this information will be rejected.</p>
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	<p>"Either" I</p> <p>Two years of experience in the California state service performing legal duties* at a level of responsibility equivalent to Staff Counsel, Range D. (Applicants who have completed 18 months of the required experience will be admitted to the examination, but must complete two years of such experience before they will be eligible for appointment.)</p> <p>"Or" II</p> <p>Broad and extensive experience (more than six years) in the practice of law.*</p>

(Continued on reverse side)

Staff Counsel III (Specialist)
(Cont'd.)

**MINIMUM
QUALIFICATIONS
(Cont'd.)**

and

Experience applicable to one of the above patterns may be combined on a proportional basis with experience applicable to the other to meet the total experience requirement. Experience in California state service applied toward "Pattern II" must include the same number of years of qualifying experience as required in "Pattern I" performing the duties at a level of responsibility equivalent to that described in "Pattern I".

In addition, all candidates must have membership in the State Bar of California. (Applicants must have active membership in The State Bar before they will be eligible for appointment.)

*Experience in the "practice of law" or "performing legal duties" is defined as only that legal experience acquired after admission to The Bar.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

This class is distinguished from the lower level Staff Counsel class by the level of difficulty of assignments given to incumbents and the expertise which the incumbent brings to these assignments. Staff Counsels III (Specialist) work with broad discretion and independence with a minimum of supervision and are expected to be expert in the most complex area of the law within a departmental legal program.

A Staff Counsel III (Specialist) does not supervise lower level attorney staff, but may act in a lead capacity.

**EXAMINATION
INFORMATION**

The examination will consist of a qualifications appraisal interview weighted 100%. The interview will include a number of predetermined job-related questions. In order to obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum rating of 70% must be attained in the interview. **CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT APPEAR FOR THE INTERVIEW WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

The examination may utilize an evaluation of each candidate's experience and education compared to a standard developed from the class specification. For this reason, it is especially important that each candidate take special care in accurately and completely filling out their application. List all experience relevant to the "Minimum Qualifications" shown on this announcement, even if that experience goes beyond the seven-year limit printed on the application. Supplementary information will be accepted, but read the "Minimum Qualifications" carefully to see what kind of information will be useful to the staff doing the evaluation.

**QUALIFICATIONS
APPRAISAL INTERVIEW
(Weighted 100%)**

Scope:

A. Knowledge of:

1. Legal principles and their application.
2. Legal research methods.
3. Court procedures.
4. Rules of evidence and procedure.
5. Administrative law and the conduct of proceedings before administrative bodies.
6. Legal terms and forms in common use.
7. Statutory and case law literature and authorities.
8. Provisions of laws and Government Code sections administered or enforced.

B. Ability to:

1. Analyze complex and difficult legal principles and precedents and apply them to difficult and complex legal and administrative problems.
 2. Perform exceptionally difficult and complex legal research.
 3. Prepare and present statements of fact, law, and argument clearly and logically in written and oral form.
 4. Draft complex and difficult opinions, pleadings, rulings, regulations, and legislation.
 5. Negotiate effectively and conduct crucial litigation.
 6. Work cooperatively with a variety of individuals and organizations and maintain the confidence and respect of others.
 7. Work effectively under pressure.
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**VETERANS'
PREFERENCE CREDITS
AND CAREER CREDITS**

Veterans' preference credits and career credits are not granted in promotional examinations.

**CONFIDENTIALITY AND
SECURITY**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 19680(c) and 19681(b) it is unlawful to copy and/or furnish confidential examination material for the purpose of either improving or injuring the chances of any person or to obtain examination questions or other examination material before, during, or after an examination. Every person violating these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor, and adverse action will be pursued. This may result in the person being barred from competition in future examinations, withheld from certification lists, or cancellation of eligibility for employment in state civil service.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For an examination without a written feature it is the candidate's responsibility to contact the Examination Unit of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, (916) 445-7824, three weeks after the final filing date if he/she has not received a progress notice.

If a candidate's notice of written examination or oral interview fails to reach him/her prior to the day of the written test or interview due to a verified postal error, he/she will be rescheduled upon written request.

Applications are available at State Personnel Board offices, local offices of the Employment Development Department and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

If you meet the requirements, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirement does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described on this bulletin will be compared with the performance of the others who take this test, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better the needs of the service if the circumstances under which this examination was planned changed. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all competitors will be notified.

Examination Locations: Ordinarily, qualifications appraisal interviews are scheduled in Sacramento and Riverside. However, locations of interviews may be limited or extended as conditions warrant.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) subdivisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multidepartmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on this bulletin. In the case of continuous testing examinations, names are merged onto the appropriate lists in order of final test scores (except as modified by veterans' preference credits) regardless of the date of the test and the resulting eligible lists will be used only to fill vacancies in the area shown on the bulletin.

Promotional Examinations Only: Competition is limited to employees who have a permanent civil service appointment. Under certain circumstances other employees may be allowed to compete under provisions of Rules 234, 235 and 235.2. State Personnel Board Rules 233, 234, 235, 235.2 and 237 contain provisions regarding civil service status and eligibility for promotional examinations. These rules may be reviewed at departmental personnel offices or at the Information Counter of the State Personnel Board in Sacramento.

General Qualifications: Candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, and ability to work cooperatively with others; and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history, and fingerprinting may be required.

Interview Scope: If an interview is conducted, in addition to the scope described on this bulletin, the panel will consider education, experience, personal development, personal traits, and fitness. In appraising experience, more weight will be given to the breadth and recency of pertinent experience and evidence of the candidate's ability to accept and fulfill increasing responsibilities than to the length of his/her experience. Evaluation of a candidate's personal development will include consideration of his/her recognition of his/her own training needs; his/her plan for self-development; and the progress he/she has made in his/her efforts toward self-development.

Veterans' Preference Credits: California law allows granting of veterans' preference credits in open entrance examinations and open-nonpromotional examinations. Credit in open entrance examinations is granted as follows: 10 points for veterans, widows and widowers of veterans, and spouses of 100% disabled veterans; and 15 points for disabled veterans. Credit in open-nonpromotional examinations is granted as follows: 5 points for veterans; and 10 points for disabled veterans. Directions for applying for veterans' preference credits are on the Veteran Preference Application (Form 1093) which is available from State Personnel Board offices, written test proctors, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 942895, Sacramento, CA 94295-0001.

Career Credits: In open-nonpromotional examinations, career credits are granted to: 1) state employees with permanent civil service status, 2) full-time employees of the state who are exempt from state civil service pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution, and who meet all qualification requirements specified by the Board and have 12 consecutive months of service in an exempt position, and 3) individuals who have served one full year in or are graduates of the California Conservation Corps (eligibility shall expire 24 months after graduation from the California Conservation Corps). Three points are added to the final test score of those candidates who meet the above criteria, and who are successful in the examination. Such examinations cannot be for managerial positions described in Government Code Section 3513. Competitors not currently employed in state civil service who have mandatory reinstatement rights may also be eligible for career credits, but they must explain their civil service status in the appropriate section of the Examination Application form STD. 678. (Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution is posted at the State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, California.)

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the candidate is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.

TDD is Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.

1 (800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD) 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice)

STS is Speech-to-Speech Service for persons with a speech disability and is reachable at

1 (800) 854-7784 (California) or 1 (800) 947-8642 (Nationwide)